

NOAA FY 1999 Budget Request Fact Sheet

Clean Water Initiative

Coastal Resource Coordination Program

NOAA requests \$1.0 million in FY 1999 for the Coastal Resource Coordination (CRC) program to ensure that cleanup actions conducted at dozens of coastal hazardous waste sites protect and restore fish, shellfish, wetlands, coastal waters, and other natural resources. The CRC program is a key component of NOAA's FY 1999 Clean Water Initiative, with the other components being State Partnerships to Reduce Polluted Runoff and the Control of Harmful Algal Blooms. The Clean Water Initiative is a modest investment to help restore and protect our valuable coastal waters that support billions of dollars of economic activities every year through tourism, recreation and commercial fishing.

NOAA Budget	FY1999 Request \$M
National Ocean Service	
Ocean Resources Conservation & Assessment (Coastal Resource Coordination)	1.0
(Control of Harmful Algal Blooms)	9.0
Ocean & Coastal Management (Reduce Polluted Runoff)	12.0
Total Clean Water Initiative	22.0

The threat of hazardous waste sites to coastal resources

Hazardous waste sites in the coastal zone degrade and destroy valuable marine, estuarine, and coastal habitat by contaminating the waters and sediments that support fish, shellfish, marine mammals, and other natural resources. Since 1985, NOAA's Coastal Resource Coordination (CRC) program has been working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other agencies at coastal hazardous waste sites to reduce the impact of contaminants on natural resources. NOAA's CRC program is currently funded with Superfund program money passed to NOAA through an interagency agreement with EPA. The type of funding provided by EPA limits the range, extent, and priorities of NOAA's stewardship efforts at coastal hazardous waste sites.

For example, NOAA is precluded from conducting important site-specific research studies, working on sites where a



Iron discharge at Army Creek landfill, Delaware.

state is in charge of the cleanup, working on active industrial facilities and other non-Superfund sites, and working on Federal facility sites such as military bases. NOAA is also precluded from providing technical assistance to states. NOAA's inability to conduct these types of activities is not consistent with its role as a trustee for coastal and marine natural resources and its coastal stewardship responsibilities.

Reducing the impacts

Clean Water Initiative funding will allow the CRC program to serve a broader constituency and accelerate cleanups by building stronger relationships with states and local communities. CRC brings NOAA's legal authorities and technical expertise to the cleanup process, and results in cleanups that protect natural resources as well as human health. The funds will enable the program to continue work on hundreds of coastal sites and take on more than a dozen important new sites, including military facilities and active industrial facilities, that pose a significant risk to coastal natural resources, and use the considerable technical information and expertise developed over the last 13 years to its fullest. Technical assistance will be provided to States and communities faced with the cleanup of waste sites and Brownfield sites.



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Specifically, CRC field staff and a multi-disciplinary team of experts work together to:

- describe the resources at risk, the contaminants of concern and the ways the contaminants could reach natural resources and people;
- design scientifically sound sampling strategies;
- measure and predict the effects of contaminants on natural resources;
- develop site-specific cleanup levels;
- recommend cost-effective approaches for site assessment and cleanup; and
- design monitoring programs to ensure the remedies are protective.



Sign at the edge of New Bedford Harbor in Massachusetts prohibits fishing and swimming due to PCB contamination in the sediment and water. NOAA is working in partnership with other agencies to protect and restore healthy coastal habitat at this site and hundreds of other sites along our coast.

Why NOAA?

Several factors make NOAA's participation in hazardous waste site cleanups essential:

- NOAA has mandated responsibilities under the Clean Water Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund) and other statutes to protect and preserve marine and coastal resources for future generations. NOAA fulfills these "trustee" responsibilities by addressing coastal contamination issues, and the CRC program is one of NOAA's most important tools in meeting the agency's trustee mandate.
- NOAA's broader responsibilities for observing, describing, and predicting change in coastal systems, and promoting long-term stewardship of coastal resources make the agency uniquely qualified to provide solutions to the problems caused by the release of hazardous substances in coastal environments.
- For years, EPA has recognized the importance of NOAA's technical expertise in areas such as aquatic ecological risk assessment. NOAA's expertise complements that of EPA and strengthens the site assessment process. This partnership is an effective process for protecting the Nation's Coastal Resources.

The CRC program is a key component of NOAA's Clean Water Initiative, and will result in more productive and diverse habitat for fish and wildlife, cleaner coastal waters, and healthier coastal ecosystems.

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